considered) – is one of the most diverse and fascinating for mammalogists. The author, a renowned expert on south-east Asian mammals, has written a classical field guide with a short introduction and a focus on colour plates as a means for species identification, distribution maps and a more detailed description of each species in the major part of the book. The introduction briefly summarizes basic information on mammals, ways of finding and studying them in the region, mammal conservation and on how to use this field guide. The colour plates, illustrated by a number of well-known artists, are very good (naturally, some are better than others), and they are accompanied by a distribution map and a short identification summary for each of the nearly 500 species dealt with. Sometimes there is also a highlighted note on traits by which to tell apart the species shown together on one page. The most comprehensive part of the book is devoted to describing the species a bit more detailedly, often with additional black and white illustrations such as sketches of footprints or drawings of skulls or dental characters. This text comprises paragraphs on measurements, identification, similar species, ecology and habitat, and distribution and status. In the latter, the global distribution of each species is given (the maps only show distribution areas in south-east Asia), and the conservation status following the categories of the IUCN is provided. A short glossary, a selected bibliography and an index make up the last part of the book.

Although systematics and taxonomy, in line with the book's primary aims, are not dealt with in detail, it is somewhat surprising that the close relationship of cetaceans and traditional artiodactyls (they are *one* monophyletic taxon: Cetartiodactyla) is not mentioned at all (in fact, the two groups are not even presented following each other but are separated by three other ''orders''). This, however, does not diminish the book's value, and every naturalist interested in mammals and travelling in the south-east Asian mainland now has a high-quality field guide at hand.

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Janis, C.M.; Gunnell, G.F.; Uhen M.D. (Eds.): Evolution of Tertiary Mammals of North America, Vol. II: Small Mammals, Xenarthrans, and Marine Mammals. Numerous black and white illustrations, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge (2008) VIII & 795pp., Hardback, US$300.00, Brit.£150.00, ISBN: 978-0-521-78117-6

Ten years after the publication of the first part, which dealt with terrestrial carnivores, ungulates and ungulate-like mammals (Janis et al., 1998), the second volume appeared. It is more voluminous than the first one and 35 authors contributed to this monumental account of fossil mammals from the Tertiary of North America. Mammalian groups are dealt with in a standardized way in 37 chapters: After a first introduction to each chapter features that separate taxa from each other are considered. Following this, different physiological aspects, such as food, but also craniodental specializations and other anatomical features are presented. Systematics are discussed, followed by a presentation of evolutionary and biogeographic patterns. In most of the chapters diagrammatic plates present the biogeographic and chronological distribution of fossil species. In many cases the geographic range of fossils is characterized by large units, such as ''Gulf Coast'', ''Southern Great Basin'' or ''Northern Great Plains'', to name just three examples. Such a method of semi-schematic graphical presentation allows to present a stunning amount of data. It is a common characteristic of both volumes that a vast amount of information is presented to the reader. This impression is emphasized by a very detailed list of references that ends each chapter. A closer inspection of these lists shows clearly that the contributing authors did not only base their accounts on well-established and widely known literature, but extended their research and citations well into the 21st century. The illustrations depicting osteological structures, as well as phylogenetic trees, are clearly drawn and perfectly printed. It is obvious that this volume will supply a sound database with information valid for many years to come.

Reference

Janis, C.M., Scott, K.M., Jacobs, L.L. (Eds.), 1998. Evolution of Tertiary Mammals of North America, Vol. I: Terrestrial Carnivores, Ungulates, and Ungulatelike Mammals. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

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